

## Oregon Resource Association

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**To: Sen. Gelser Blouin, Chair  
Sen. Linthicum, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services**

RE: ORA Support of SB 595 with Clarifying Amendment

The Oregon Resource Association represents approximately 100 community provider organizations across Oregon. These organizations provide services that support people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities to live, work and stay connected in their communities.

On behalf of the **Oregon Resource Association we are voicing our support of SB 595, with a clarifying amendment that “contractor” includes residential providers of IDD services to Oregonians.** As drafted, the bill would require that multiyear contracts entered into between the Department of Human Services and private entities for the provision of health or social services receive annual cost of living adjustments. We have long supported COLAs as crucial for state contracting providers of human services.

**Automatic Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) are essential for community provider organization contracts with the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services to ensure the sustainability and quality of care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).** Without COLAs, service providers struggle to keep up with rising operational costs, including wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), who are the backbone of support for these individuals. Inflation affects everything from utilities to transportation, and without adjustments, stagnant funding forces organizations to cut services, reduce staff, or shut down entirely. Consistent COLAs help maintain a stable workforce, reduce turnover, and ensure that individuals with IDD continue receiving the support they need to live safely and with dignity.

We look forward to working with the Sponsor to seek a clarifying amendment to include the work of IDD providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lois Gibson', written in a cursive style.

Lois Gibson, Executive Director of the Oregon Resource Association